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REPORT NO. CS-311/03209-69

DATE DISTR. 8 April 1969

TRY: Laos

: 5 February 1969

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CT: 1. Pathet Lao Prison South of
Route 12 Near Ban Nathan in Khammouane
Province
2. Civilian Hospital, Uniform Factory,
and Rice Depot in the Same Area

: Laos, Vientiane (11, 14 March 69)

E:

1. As of 5 February 1969, a Pathet Lao (PL) prison complex housing 82 inmates was in a karst formation at WE 405324, south of Route 12 and two kilometers (KM) north-east of Ban Nathan (WE 395311) in Khammouane Province. Sixty-eight of the prisoners confined there were either detained on charges of being Lao Government sympathizers or on the basis of their refusal to serve in the PL. Eight of the prisoners were former Lao Armed Forces (FAR) soldiers who had been captured by the PL. The PL imprisoned six women for attempting to escape to government-controlled territory.

2. A total of 22 policemen under the command of Second Lieutenant Lakone were assigned to guard the prison on two-hour shifts. Guard posts were positioned at WE 403326, WE 405325 and WE 409323. Three 2 x 6 meter buildings serving as guard quarters stood in the vicinity of WE 408323. The center building was occupied by the chief of the guards while the two buildings adjacent to it were used by the other guards.

3. Prisoners were housed in a karst cave in which numerous small huts had been built for their use. The mouth of the cave at WE 405325 was sealed by a heavy gate.

4. As of 5 February 1969, a civilian hospital was in the vicinity of WE 411336. Three North Vietnamese Army

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edics staffed the hospital which had 22 patients. A uniform factory staffed by 14 workers and equipped with eight sewing machines was at WE 406313. A rice depot housing an estimated seven tons of rice was at WE 357344.

5. [REDACTED] Comment:

A. Analysis of aerial photography dated 27 February over the reported area of the Pathet Lao prison reveals the following, which is keyed to the paragraphs above.

Paragraph 2 - Two probable caves are visible at WE 406323 and WE 404325 in the karst hill reported as the prison location. The three barracks buildings and three guard posts are not visible; however, several foot trails are visible under the tree canopy in these areas.

Paragraph 4 - A probable cave is visible at WE 411336 which is the location of the reported civilian hospital. Photograph of an unknown date revealed probable caves at the location of the rice depot reported at WE 357344, and at the reported uniform factory at WE 416313.

Four probable caves were also observed on the 27 February photography at WE 410333, WE 409333, WE 408336 and WE 414322.

B. Current listings indicate that -

Paragraph 1 - Prisons are confirmed at the following locations: WE 4032, WE 4131, and WE 433332. The prison at WE 433332 possibly contains American prisoners.

Paragraph 2 - Lt. Lakhone is confirmed as chief of prison guards at the Naden Prison (WE 4333).

Paragraph 4 - There are confirmed reports of a storage facility at WE 4036 and rice storage at WE 3533.

6. Field Dissem: State Army Air USMACV 7th Air Force
CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT [REDACTED]